SIERRA CLUB

# YODELER

Volume I | September 11, 1939 | Number 14

## PARK ADDITIONS REVIEWED AT CONVENTION

Resolving that the National Park Service should continue to acquire areas of outstanding scenic importance, but not areas noted primarily for their recreational facilities, the Convention of Western Outdoor Clubs reviewed the Park Service acquisition plans, passing resolutions in favor of:

I. The Gearhart Bill, establishing the Kings Canyon National Park in a region long considered of national park calibre.

II. Additions to the Olympic National Park to facilitate administration.

Disapproved by the Federation were:

I. Plans for a Cascades National Park, embracing the Oregon and Washington snow peaks.

II. Administration by the Park Service of Mt. Hood and the Timberline Lodge.

Regret that the Wilderness Clause had been dropped from the Gearhart Bill was expressed, but it was felt that support of the Adams-DeRouen Bill, enabling the President to proclaim wilderness areas within national parks, would be a great aid to the wilderness cause.

## PITONS FOR THE NPS

To aid in bringing rescue equipment up-to-date the Yosemite National Park Service recently purchased a supply of pitons and carabiners. On most of the recent Sierra Club rock-climbing trips to the Valley some of the rangers have been on hand, acquiring some of the R.C.S. technique that can be applied to Yosemite rescues.

## CLIMBING RANGERS URDED FOR PARKS

Citing instances where mountaineers with weeks of experience on Waddington glaciers, and months of experience in European mountains have been denied the privilege of climbing in some of our national parks, Dick Leonard, speaking before delegates to the Western Outdoor Club Convention, urged that outdoor clubs recommend careful study by the National Park Service of climbing in the national parks.

"There are ranger-naturalists in the national parks now," Leonard added, "who inform the public on matters pertaining to the geology, flowers, animals, and history of the national parks. There is also a place in some national parks for rangers trained in mountaineering, with whom climbers could register, and from whom they could receive advice."

### Climbing Should Not Be Prohibited

Leonard stressed that climbing should in no event be prohibited by such rangers, since that would immediately defeat the attempt to have all climbers register, which he considered of primary importance in administration of climbing terrain. It was pointed out that forbidding a climb rarely discourages it, while registration of climbers at least can facilitate any rescue work that might be necessary.

Recalling an accident of a few years ago in a Western national park in which inexperienced rangers required a day and a half to reach an injured man who could have been reached by an experienced rock-climber in an hour and a half, Leonard also urged that the Park Service be encouraged to train some of its ranger force.

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Next deadline - September 25
Contributions should be in by 7 p.m.

Vol. 1 September 11, 1939 No. 14

Assignment by Yodeleditor to assistant editor: Think up a new way to say thank you to Mitzie Block, Madeline Filhol, Fred Kelley, Helen Haines, Harriet Myers, Esther Saylor, John Dyer, Edward Koskinen, Ralph Yearly, Al Wiler, the editorial staff, and those whose names we didn't get.

New way to say thank you:

"Come again, please"

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Wanted - a midnight watch

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The Curious, who wonder how the Yodeler gets out, are assured that the Club office is open until very late on publication nights, and all are more than welcome to watch--but you won't watch long 'round about midnight when the assembly line starts rolling--

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## Mt. Rainier Places Fourth in Altitude

Although the race was over in the period of the Jurassic uplifts (don't check our geology), the judges have just determined, according to recent newspaper reports, that Mt. Rainier finished fourth in the national altitude races. Rainier's 14,408 feet, it appears, is not enough to top Colorado's Mt. Massif, not to mention Mt. Elbert or Mt. Whitney. Up to now Washingtonians have always thought Mt. Rainier was third.

Perhaps they still think so.

At any rate we will maintain that since so many pictures have been taken on both Rainier and Massif, the race definitely has a photo-finish aspect.

It is always well to take such decisions calmly. When both summits are levelled, as Mt. Whitney has been, the results may again be reversed. Until then it might be best to follow the lead of George Rockwood, who used to climb rocks when he was in the mood. George, looking over the conflicting reports from across the seas, says "I'll believe it when I read it in a history book!"

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## SPRING STILL HERE

Judging from the flower list of the Nature Lore Group it could still be spring-time in Marin, for 60 species of flowers were found at Stinson Beach Sunday. The 16 pairs of alert eyes that were on the trip also saw some interesting birds, the biggest thrills being the views of the Western Red-tailed Hawks, formation flying of the California Brown Pelicans, and several thousand shearwaters feeding on a school of fish just beyond the breakers.

Next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at the Club Office on September 22--- Friday October 8th is the date of the next field trip.

## HAVE YOU?

Your Sierra Club windshield insignia yet? If not, send a nickel for each one you want, plus a stamped and addressed envelope, to Charlotte Weatherill, 30 Corona Street, S.F.

(NOTE: A thin dime travels in the mail easier than a nickel and will bring you two insignias.) Or get them at the High Trip Reunion from Charlotte or Dick Johnson.

## DISASTER ON K 2

Very brief newspaper reports on August 24 carried the story of the death of Dudley Wolfe and two porters on K 2 in Tibet. Wolfe was a member of the American Alpine Club 1939 Karakorum expedition. One story indicated that the accident had occurred 700 feet below a summit, which would suggest that a high elevation had been reached on the 28,000-foot peak.

## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

The special election of changes in membership requirements recommended by the Board of Directors at the organization meeting last May is still open. Many ballots have already come in. Has yours?

Polls close September 30 at 12 o'clock at the clubrooms.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

War Effects Ski Business

Skiers who have been accustomed to roaming the mountains of California with Austrian wax on their Swiss skis, Norwegian socks in their Bavarian boots, Czecho-Slovakian hut slippers and Scotch sleeping bags in their Scandinavian rucksacks and Edelweiss in their Tyrolean hats, are asking whether the war isn't going to cramp their style. Roughly speaking, it is going to throw a monkey wrench right into the tempo turns of those skiers who are too much enamoured of the glamour of a European background. Austria is no more, the Germans doubtless are melting down ski bindings to make bombs, Switzerland is pretty well bottled up, and even the ships from neutral nations will have to run a precarious slalom course among the mines and torpedos.

But skiing must go on!

Personally, although the writer mourns with unspeakable bitterness the annihilation of "Gemutlichkeit," of "Ski-heils" and "Berg-heils," folk-song and sportsmanship in warring countries, she doesn't intend to let the dearth of European-made equipment hamper the growth of that same atmosphere and spirit which our Alpine and Scandinavian teachers have engendered in us. That is hardly necessary.

In the first place, American manufacturers have come a long way since the day, ten odd years ago, when the writer schussed madly about on slatty pine skis in rubber galoshes and riding pants. And in the second place, the unpleasantness in Europe during the last couple of years has really been to the great good fortune of American skiers, for there has been a considerable immigration of refugees, voluntary and otherwise, who formerly manufactured ski equipment in Europe and who are now operating in America. The coming season will see the influence of their long experience and expert guidance in designing and craftsmanship on American manufactured goods.

Buy American.

So don't feel too badly! When the present stock of imported goods runs out, bear with the American manufacturers and remember that they year by year are striving to do, and succeeding in doing, better and better by you.

## TAPPAAN LODGE GROWS AND GROWS

Thanks to the help of many hands, the new dining room unit of the Tappaan Lodge was in condition to be baptised by a record crowd of Conventineers over Labor Day. The present state of air conditioning will hardly do, however, for Ski season. Plenty needs still to be done to make the new improvements storm-proof and habitable for winter: More sheathing, more framing and more rafters (for the east passageway), more glazing of windows, more painting, more leach line to be laid, metal roofing to be put on, roofing paper to be fastened to the walls, and other jobs.

An ample supply of sawed-up fuel logs awaits merely to be hauled down from the ski trail and split. It is planned to make some improvements in the rigging of the Ski Tow.

Work parties will obviously have to continue for a number of weeks yet. September weather is crisp and delightful. Come on up and have some fun helping to finish this season's projected improvements.

Call Lewis Clark - ALameda 1122
Rolf Pundt - UNderhill 3866
for transportation.

Continued from Page 1..... in the rudiments of rock-climbing. This would result not only in quicker rescues, where speed is usually paramount, but also in greater safety to the rangers themselves.

## Appalachian Goes Sierran

Dropping in on California after a mountaineering sojourn in the Northwest, Christine Reid, photographer-member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Editor of Appalachia, has been sampling Sierra Club climbing technique, and possibly comparing methods used here with those she has seen used in the East, the Alps, and Dolomites.

Climbing at Norden over the Labor Day weekend, she continued with the Convention Yosemite-caravan, later to attempt Washington Column with Bill Horsfall. She expects to be out for one more weekend of climbing before continuing south to Los Angeles.

To the Southern California chapter we make the strong recommendation that its members see Christine Reid's excellent 500 foot reel on climbing in the Dolomites.

## ---and Vice Versa

Returning from balmy California sunshine to hurricane-ridden Boston, W. Kenneth 60° Davis is resuming his studies at M.I.T. Although his academic assignments will be many at this famous institute of technology, none will approach in importance the assignment assumed by Mr. Davis when last seen climbing at Cragmont. He agreed to take a clinometer to Tuckerman Headwall, to substantiate with cold figures (if possible) his claims to have schussed and christied on a 60° snow slope (see Yodeler #10, page 6).

The Yodeler awaits with interest Mr. Davis' reports on this winter's skiing in the East, that it may present them to its readers with suitable editorial comment.

## BEDAYAN LOOKS AGAIN

Last issue Raffi Bedayan reported finding a white sweater and a cigarette case. Upon opening the trunk of his car Sunday he found the same sweater and case; also a tripod, packboard, assorted carabiners and expansion bolts, and a star drill, a 16mm projector and 6 400-foot rolls of film. If the owners don't speak up soon there's apt to be an auction ---

## ROBINSONS TO SHADOW LAKE

It is reported that Bestor Robinson will not particularly care whether or not there is an early September snow at Norden. He and Florence Robinson will have troubles of their own. Tuesday (today to you) they embark on a ten-day knapsack trip to and around Shadow Lake.

## $1 CLIMBING FEE ON RAINIER OPPOSED

The Convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, meeting at Norden over the Labor Day weekend, went on record in unanimous opposition to such special fees in national parks as exemplified in the recent requirement of $1 from each person wishing to climb Mt. Rainier.

## LATEST FROM NORDEN

Last minute reports from Lewis Clark on the September 10 weekend progress at Norden have been expanded to read as follows:

The kitchen wall having served its purpose in keeping outdoors outside while Convention meals were prepared the previous week, work parties industriously tore the wall down. Since this left no appreciable studding to support the south end of the building, Bestor contrived to hang the roof on sky-hooks over night. While most of the workers feared that the clouds might blow away during the night resulting in a general collapse, Randy May demonstrated his faith in the Robinson ingenuity by sleeping all night over the abyss that was a well-walled kitchen.

Next day the gap between kitchen and dining room was roofed over, so at least an early snow won't find skiers snowbound in the dining room.

Unless some more work is put in, however, they may find the dining room a bit on the chilly side.

## SOME BENEFITS OF LOCAL CLIMBING

By Edward W. Koskinen

Many members of the Sierra Club who climb mountains, or who have hopes of some day going into the mountains and scaling peaks, see little sense in the local practice of the Rock-Climbing Section. Some maintain that they never intend to tackle summits that require strenuous climbing. Others claim that local climbing is petty stuff compared to the mighty Sierra or to the terrific climbs in Yosemite Valley.

There are, nevertheless, certain benefits to be gained from local practice. Naturally, good physical condition is an invaluable asset to those contemplating a sojourn in the mountains. Any rock-climber, at least, will testify that rock-climbing can be one of the best all-round exercises. It aids attai[illegible] of good physical fitness and gives poise and balance that enhance the enjoyment of climbing or cross-country travel in the mountains.

### When Is Danger Close?

To the person who plans on high-mountain roped climbing, local practice is irreplacable. As upper belays are used on practically all of the local climbs, even a novice is safe in case of a mistake. The rope from above will hold him. Therefore he is encouraged to try climbs harder than he thinks he can handle-until he is actually up. Climbing beyond his ability in the mountains would be courting Disaster; but "Reckless" climbing locally, with an upper belay, is more than safe. It is an advantage. By repeatedly succeeding on seemingly impossible routes, and falling on "easy" pitches, a person soon discovers his capabilities, and can draw the narrow dividing line between what is safe and what appears safe. With this training he may safely judge his limits in the mountains and will advance, or retreat, with confidence. Without preliminary practice Disaster might have introduced him to Danger, too late.

### Notes for the beLayman

It is very essential that those furnishing the upper belays know what they're doing. So at local climbs there is regular practice in belaying. The belayer is anchored at the top of a 10-15-foot cliff so that he cannot be pulled off. Another person climbs part-way up the cliff, and then jumps off to simulate a fall while climbing. It is the duty of the belayer to ease the fall by snubbing, not jerking -- the faller to a halt. The belayer in this way gets the actual experience of handling not only the weight of a person, but the force of a fall. By use of the standing hip belay, falls have been held where the person falling has as much as five feet of slack rope. Use of the sitting hip belay has stopped falls up to 8 feet in practice, and even higher in the field.

### A Word About Pitons

In spite of a popular misconception, few mountains are climbed with the aid of a rope from above. A leader must carry a rope up first. Safety accordingly demands that there should be practice in protecting the leader, even though the belayer is below him. Use of pitons (or expansion bolts) makes this possible. There is opportunity at local climbs to learn how to place pitons. Almost of greater importance is the matter of belaying through pitons. In any climbing where the leader is belayed from below a fall can produce a severe strain on the rope because of the large amount of slack that accumulates. In local practice the technique for holding high falls is readily acquired. High falls are held at Indian and Pinnacle Rocks, where belayers learn that the best way for them to stay on the ground--and for the faller to stay off of it--is to let the rope run a bit before trying to stop the fall.

### Rock-Climber's Schuss

The frequent question "What do you do when you reach the top?" is easily answered at local climbs. Discounting the pleasures of looking down, around, and at the register, it is often desirable to get down from a summit. The easiest and most enjoyable method is to rope down. The climber's joy in roping down corresponds to the skiers love of a schuss. Momentary discomfort means nothing. The technique, the limits, the safeguards, and the need of adequate insulation--those are best learned at local climbs, where mistakes can be corrected to a background of laughter.

Thus the Rock-Climbing Section provides homework for those who would know their mountains better. And it is well for all mountaineers to be up on their homework. For the penalty for flunking high-mountain examination is too apt to be, at best, a cold night out on a ledge.

So -- between work parties, ski weekends and all -- come out and look at the local rocks! The R.C.S welcomes all mountaineers, eminent or imminent.

## YOSEMITE CARAVAN SUCCESSFUL

The 200 convening at Norden Labor Day week-end voted the last convention a real success, but those few Sierrans who joined Art Blake and his visitors from up North in the after-convention Caravan to Yosemite are replete with superlatives in discussing the Convention and its three-day postscript.

The Caravan left Norden at 1:30 p.m. Monday (Labor Day) under the direction of Art and of Bert Harwell, genial Sierra Clubber and Yosemite Park Chief Naturalist. At Incline, near the California-Nevada State border, on Lake Tahoe, Supervisor Nelson of the Tahoe National Forest showed the group the inner workings of a fire-lookout and also some proposed additions to the forest holdings.

The next stop was Tuolumne Meadows, many miles to the South but not too far away for a late supper. The Commissary finally arrived at Parsons Lodge after an unexplainable sidetrip to Tenaya Lake. After a quick hike up Lembert Dome and a good deal of Soda Springs lemonade, Bert Harwell led the group down the Tioga Road to the Tuolumne Grove of Big Trees, the lunch place. Next the string of cars headed down the new Big Oak Flat and the Old Coulterville roads to the floor of the Valley. After a trip to the Yosemite Museum, Art and his gang drove to Glacier Point. The next day saw most of the group hiking down the Eleven-Mile Trail to the Valley, with a few chauffeuring down the Autos. After lunch at Happy Isles, most of the group headed for San Francisco. Only three, Bill Horsfall, Christine Reid and Al Weiler accepted Bert Harwell's kind invitation and stayed at his home in the Valley for a few days.

There were 33 in the Caravan, the majority coming from Oregon clubs. All were greatly impressed by Yosemite, the old-timers by the fact that the Valley is always beautiful, even when the falls are very nearly dry, and the newcomers, of course, by the wonders of the Valley. The only unfortunate thing about the whole trip was that the visitors had to leave for home so soon after discovering the countless wonders of the Yosemite wonderland. Art's after-convention-caravan was a great idea, and it is to be hoped that the Club will have many more opportunities to acquaint its friends with the High Sierra.

## MORE BENEFITS OF LOCAL CLIMBING

After a windy afternoon's rock-climbing at Miraloma, and a (aitto) meeting of the Outing Committee, two groups got together Sunday evening at Charlotte Mauk's home, and with additions of other climbing enthusiasts and movie fans who had heard the news and dropped in, saw a grade A presentation of a triple feature program, the excellence of which was surpassed only by the wide range of subjects covered.

Feature 1. An excellent picture of guide climbing methods as employed in the Italian Dolomites. Some interesting climbing, well photographed, and a demonstration of two-rope piton work over an overhang. But those European belays, it seems, are pretty much a matter of moral support.

Feature 2. A starring vehicle for the newest addition to the R.C.S., Miss Frances Leonard. The star was ably supported by her mother. Her father appears for a brief part in the picture, and Susie, the Leonard canine, is her usual Puckish self. Frances, by the way, is slightly over a month old now, but showed excellent self-possession and aplomb in this, her first screen appearance.

Feature 3. Johnny Dyer, belayed by Dave Brower, appeared in some beautiful Kodachrome shots, demonstrating just why the Pulpit in Yosemite cannot--simply cannot! --be climbed. From the south, that is. Some fine rock work by Dyer, who has since made the climb from the east--the Bedayan route.

Short filler. Our old friend "The Origin and Growth of the R.C.S."--that super film that starts with Rin-Tin-Tin, shows rock-climbers at work mastering the art of falling gracefully, and ends with "the Leonard" roping down, presumably to dinner.

Other short subjects that ran all the way from rock-rolling on Mt. Hamilton, through high piton acrobatics at Pinnacle Rock, to sunset over the Bay, made altogether a grand program. --Ralph Yearly

COMMISSARY CONVENES From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday an Expanded Outing Committee met at the mountain-top apartment of Barbara Norris to review 1939 trips and plan for 1940. The meeting was enlivened by "Susie" and the Norris cocker "Flika." Their antics relieved the discussion on how many pounds of beef, do we need a crowbar, etc. Helpful were the lists of constructive comments collected by various Club members.

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ADD-LIBING

Now that summer has went and autumn is on its way business at the Club Library is mighty fine. Local mathematicians estimate the increase in book-borrowings between 346 and 426 per cent over recent weeks; Nimi, Gadget and the W.M. are at a complete loss to explain the effect of the weather in this matter; and local wiseacres suggest that the Club had better get some more books quickly or else the mean (not nasty but average) member shall have perused every book in the library by October, 1979.

Nor are these the only signs of renewed activity in the clubrooms. The catalogue is really coming along fine, and there is a possibility that prospective Death Valleyers shall no longer have to hike blind, but in the future shall have the unfaltering beacon of the Dewey-decimal catalogue. And then there is the Myers-Selle book-binding duet, with the results of their harmony gracing the middlemost portion of the southwest library shelves. Now Johnny Schagen has added this golden handiwork, so the world may know that the newly-bound volumes enclose Appalachia and not so many blank pages.

Off in a far corner of the room there rests a mammoth binder awaiting the fulfillment of his promise by one Dave Brower, namely, the furnishing of the very latest in U.S. Geological Survey maps. When (and if)--(if this if stays in, I guess the Yodeleditor doesn't read his copy) (He does, but never understands it.-Ed.),these maps arrive, the Committee will assemble a volume of topographical maps complete to the most recently discovered hand-hold.

As you can see, the Library Committee is doing everything in its power to preserve the material in the library and to make it more useful to all the members of the club, and sincerely urge you to take full advantage of your library.

Convention Weekend. A busy three days were enjoyed by local walkers, combining work with play...One of the major accomplishments was the miraculous birth of a dining room. On Saturday morning, workers hurriedly assembled tables, stained them a delicate walnut brown, and lo! by evening a completely furnished dining room greeted visitors! The problem of feeding the largest crowd ever assembled at Norden failed to quiver an eyelash on Chef Martin's unruffled countenance... With the assistance of Mrs. Neuenburg, Mrs. Smedberg, and a corps of volunteer kitchen slaveys, the hungry horde lined up cafeteria style, and were fed with efficiency and dispatch...Highlights of the Saturday night program: Bestor Robinson causing near-hysterics in some quarters by cooly elaborating the details of cannibalism in the Donner Party, with accent on the bucket of blood and carved sections of Mrs. Donner's anatomy...Bert Harwell of Yosemite fascinated all listeners with his bird calls and octave theory...Rock-climbing movies followed, with Dick Leonard and Christine Reid, famous Appalachian climber, officiating.

The main event Sunday was the hike to Peter Grubb Hut, where a dedication was scheduled...Another more ambitious battalion planned to climb Castle Peak before joining in the dedication at noon...Somebody over-estimated somewhere...One p.m. found the battalion white around the gills and still climbing the precipitous cliffs below Castle Peak...Under veteran R. C. Rolf Pundt's tutelage, the neophytes made the top, without ropes or casualties, but with plenty of flutterings in the solar plexus...Three and a half hours after schedule, the hut was reached--and delightful surprise! Mrs. Grubb and her family were on hand to serve hot tea and refreshments! Then back to the Lodge to wash off the grime and enjoy one of Martin's famous meals...Sunday night campfire was followed by some gorgeous movies of the Sierra shown by Dave Brower. The exquisite shots in color of sunsets, wildflowers, cloud effects, and high country scenery were truly gems of photography...

Monday found some trekking to Flora Lake for the swimming--others joining the Caravan Trip bound for Tuolumne and Yosemite.. Commendations to busy local walkers who helped to make the weekend a success: Maxine Wilkes, Jim Barbour and Carolyn Nelson for their registration work; and Bob Schallenberger and Al Weiler for their efficient handling of the reception committee.

Musical September 15.

A treat is in store for music loving members of the Sierra Club. Don't miss hearing talented fellow-members perform. A short opera will be offered as piece de resistance.

September 16-17.

Attend the High Trip Reunion in the East Bay. Swimming, hiking, rock-climbing, Oliver Kerlein's campfire...Sunday hikers can join the overnight group the following day.

September 24.

Attend a T. C. C. Meeting at Bootjack Camp. Bring your dollar membership fee. This organization is doing fine work in Marin County and deserves the support of every hiker.

Stinson Beach.

John Schagen and Elsa Thorsteinson led a half hundred hikers to Stinson last Sunday with Old Man Weather in league all the way. Cooling fog assisted hikers in keeping up a brisk pace going over--but gracefully slipped away when the group arrived at the beach. Swimming was enjoyed under balmy skies, and then the gray mists reappeared and conveniently cooled the heels of returning hikers on the long trek home.

Warning.

A serious situation faces all hikers in Marin County. Much of the property that we use is privately-owned, and owners will not tolerate for long the careless habits of many hikers whose failure to dispose properly of their garbage constitutes a menace to the watersheds. The use of several camps has already been taken away from us. Let every Sierra Club member join in a campaign to convince hikers of the importance of leaving camp or lunch sites in good order.

Big Sur Pack Trip.

Labor Day week-end was scheduled as a Loma Prieta trip, but half of the group turned out to be Bay Chapter members... A heap of fun was had by all.